
Judd Gregg

NEWS RELEASE

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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SENATOR GREGG VOTES TO EXTEND TRICARE TO MEMBERS OF MILITARY RESERVE

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) recently supported a measure that will make TRICARE, the health insurance program for members of the United States active component armed forces, available to military reservists including members of the National Guard. Presently, reservists are only eligible for TRICARE when they are called to active duty. A recent report from the General Accounting Office concluded that 40% of members of the National Guard between the ages of 19 to 35 have no health insurance coverage and 20% of all National Guard personnel lack coverage. The health care measure has been included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Department of Defense Authorization bill, which is currently being considered by the Senate. Senator Gregg is a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and the Senate National Guard Coalition.

Senator Gregg stated, "The success of the armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have proven that the men and women of our military reserves are an invaluable component of our nation's armed forces. Citizen soldiers are required to put their family and professional lives on hold when our nation calls, and they do so without hesitation. Members of our reserve forces should have access to the same health care system as full-time armed forces personnel, and this amendment extends these much needed benefits."

In late April, Senator Gregg joined members of the New Hampshire National Guard, including New Hampshire Adjutant General John Blair, at the Pease Air Force National Guard Base to discuss the status of Granite State National Guard personnel stationed around the globe, as well as discuss the merits of extending TRICARE benefits to military reservists.

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